



This month we are writing from Los Angeles after having been away from the shop for nearly a month. On the way out we visited several ham-fests, many amateur stations and most of the supply houses. To me it certainly has been a real pleasure to meet some of the fellows that we have so often worked or heard over the air: W8CPC, W8CNZ, W8AWK, W8DFH, W9AAA, W9IVD, W9CP, W9IJ, W9KB, W9MTC, W9LIP, W9PRR, W9DRD, W4AG, W5AFX, W5RJ, W6CNE, W6GWX, W6CGO, W6JJU, W6PT, W6ELR, and many many others as well as to renew such old acquaintances as: W8BAH, W8BIT, W9UZ, W9RA, W9DCX, W9LD, W9CK, W9EFH,

W9EL, W6EZ, W6LA, W6FBI, W6GWY, etc., etc.

We have with us the 100-watt "all-band" transmitter with the RK-20's that was mentioned on this page the month before last. Although it still weighs the same two-hundred pounds, it has been made "portable" by the addition of a pair of handles. All this week we have had it set up on the twenty-meter phone band at the shack of W6GWX in South Pasadena and are now looking forward to dropping down to the ten-meter band to-morrow for the regular Sunday morning schedule.

With the mountain-top locations and ungodly high masts that these W6's of Southern California seem to have in such abundance, we have high hopes of QSOing with W1SZ, W1KH, W4KR, W4TW, W4AJX, W2TP, W1CTW, — or some of the other East Coast ten-meter outfits in spite of our modest one hundred watts.

Incidentally, the West Coast hams not only have "locations" and rotatable directional antennae (W6CNE), but they consider it a gross misuse of good equipment if a pair of 852's is run at anything less than 999 FRC watts! — or for that matter, a single 852 if a pair is not available!

One of the most frequently asked questions — aside, of course, from data on the transmitter — is about our plans for a new receiver. It seems that many of the fellows have heard of the new model we have been trying to work on quietly during the past six months and have the opinion that it is being designed to replace the FB7A and the FBXA. This is not so. The new receiver is intended to fill the existing gap between the FB7 and the AGS in both price and performance. It is intended as a strictly amateur receiver incorporating as far as possible all of those features which we believe to be desirable for amateur band operation. It will have a two-stage pre-selector; use a radically new type SFL gang condenser with precision pre-loaded worm drive tuning; a new dial; a separate built-in vacuum tube voltmeter for direct reading of carrier intensities; a Lamb-type Single Signal crystal filter with full front-of-panel control and calibrated plug-in coils ganged for easy handling. As the advertising men say, "It will bristle with new features." Obviously this means it has been necessary to design this new receiver without the restrictions as to cost which were given so much consideration in the case of the FB series. We will tell you more about it later, but present indications are that the list price will be slightly over two hundred dollars and that production sets will be available in September.

We feel that the FB7A or XA in its present form is a darn good set and one that will not be outclassed by anything selling at anywhere near the same price for a long time to come. Of course minor changes and improvements will be made from time to time in order to keep it in step with the progress of the art, just as was done with the SW3. We do not now, however, know of any new developments or existing faults that would justify a new model for the coming season.

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